Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJECT: SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE: CAUCUS BY WESTERN EUROPEANS AND OTHERS ON ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

1. SUMMARY: CANADIANS CALLED MEETING OF WESTERN EUROPEANS AND OTHERS ON APRIL 19 TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATION OF SEABED TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN GENEVA FROM JUNE 20 TO JULY 1, 1977. AMONG ISSUES RAISED WERE PRESIDENCY OF CONFERENCE, VICE-PRESIDENTS, CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF DRAFTING AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEES, AND CONSULTATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON APRIL 19, CANADIAN CCD REP (JAY) CALLED MEETING OF WEST EUROPEANS AND OTHERS WHO ARE PARTIES TO SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS OF TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN GENEVA FROM JUNE 20 TO JULY 1, 1977 PARTICIPANTS IN MEETING INCLUDED REPS FROM US, SWEDEN, JAPAN, UK, NETHERLANDS, IRELAND, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, ITALY, FRG, AND

CANADA.

- 3. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT POLISH AMB WYZNER WAS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE REVCON. AND NO ONE HAD ANY INFORMATION ON ANY OTHER CANDIDATE. WITH RESPECT TO CANDIDATES FOR WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHER VICE-PRESIDENCIES OR COMMITTEE CHAIRMENSHIPS (SEE SEABED TREATY REVCON PREPCOM REPORT, SECTION III), ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS, AND CANADA INDICATED AN INTEREST. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT CHAIRMANSHIP OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE WAS MOST IMPORTANT JOB AFTER PRESIDENCY, AND THAT WESTERN EUROPEANS AND OTHERS SHOULD SEEK TO HAVE THEIR CANDIDATE ELECTED TO THIS POSITION. NO INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED IN THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, ALTHOUGH THERE SEEMED GENERAL AGREEMENT IT WOULD BE LOGICAL POSI-TION FOR AFRICAN OR ASIAN NATION, IF WEST EUROPEAN AND OTHER GROUP OBTAINED DRAFTING COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP. ITALIANS SAID CONVERSATIONS WITH EE GROUP INDICATED THAT, OF FOUR POSITIONS ALLOCATED, USSR, EAST GERMANY AND BULGARIA HAD BEEN SELECTED. IN ADDITION TO POLAND AS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, BUT THAT YUGOSLAVIA WAS CONTESTING BULGARIAN SELECTION.
- 4. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE GROUP WOULD RECONVENE ON MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 25, IN ORDER TO PROCEED WITH ORGANIZATIONAL DECISIONS AND CANDIDATES FOR VARIOUS POSITIONS, AFTER CONSULTING WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

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- 5. COMMENT: USDEL BELIEVES THAT EITHER NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAAUW) OR CANADIAN REP (JAY) WOULD PROVE TO BE ATTRACTIVE CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP DRAFTING COMMITTEE. (SHOULD BE NOTED CANADIANS MAY HAVE SOME PROPOSALS IN MIND FOR PRESENTATION AT CONFERENCE, BUT HAVE NOT INDICATED NATURE, WHICH IS POINT WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO HAVE IN MIND IN CONSIDERING CANDIDATES FOR DRAFTING COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP). INFORMAL SOUNDINGS WITH VAN DER KLAAUW INDICATE THAT HE IS PREPARED TO BE CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION, IF THE HAGUE WOULD AGREE. IN ADDITION, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT US AND UK AUTOMA-TICALLY ARE INCLUDED ON CONFERENCE BUREAU AS DEPOSITARIES. WE DO NOT HAVE STRONG VIEWS ON OTHER CANDIDATES FOR WEO SLOTS, AND COULD SUPPORT ANY PARTIES SO LONG AS THERE IS ADEQUATE BALANCE. IN THIS REGARD, SWEDES HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE NOT CANDIDATE FOR BUREAU POSITION.
- 6. ACTION REQUESTED: IF FEASIBLE, WOULD APPRECIATE REACTIONS TO ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL WESTERN AND OTHER

CANDIDACIES DESCRIBED PARA 3, IN TIME FOR APRIL 25 MEETING. SORENSON

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